

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 00646 111223Z

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /017 W
-----111224Z 007235 /13

R 111200Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO USIA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9774

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 646

USIAC

FOR: IEU; STATE FOR CU//ARTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

1. STOCKHOLM MEDIA CURRENTLY CRITICIZING TAX ADVANTAGES
OBTAINED BY EMBASSIES FOR THEIR VISITING INTERNATIONAL
PERFORMERS. IMMEDIATE CAUSE IS THE HIGH TICKET PRICES
CHARGED FOR APPEARANCES OF SAMMY DAVIS JR. DESPITE WAIVER
OF 42-PERCENT TAX GRANTED BY GOS UNDER LONG-STANDING
LAW PERMITTING EMBASSY TO DEFINE ARTISTS AS PART OF
'CULTURAL EXCHANGE'. ALL EMBASSIES IN SWEDEN USE SYSTEM,
WITH US AND EAST BLOC APPLYING LIBERAL INTERPRETATION OF
'CULTURE' AND BRITISH MORE LIMITED ONE, ACCORDING TO PRESS.
NEWSPAPERS IMPLY TAX SAVINGS SHOULD BE PASSED ON BY
IMPRESARIOS TO PUBLIC AND CRITICIZE FACT EMBASSIES THEM-
SELVES PERMITTED TO MAKE THE 'CULTURAL' JUDGEMENT.

2. AS RESULT OF MEDIA CAMPAIGN, ISSUE WAS RAISED IN RIKSDAG
FEBRUARY 9. IN REPLY, BUDGET MINISTER MUNDEBO DECLARED LAW WOULD
BE REVISED TO PROHIBIT TAX BREAK. GOS HAS HAD LONG-RANGE STUDY ON
SUBJECT FOR SOME TIME WITHOUT ARRIVING AT REVISION. EMBASSY ALSO
HAS BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT CURRENT SYSTEM, WHICH IS SOMETHING OF A
NO-WIN SITUATION --EITHER WE GET US ARTISTS DOWN ON US OR ELSE
WE OPEN OURSELVES UP TO CRITICAL NOTICES IN THE PRESS -- AND HAS
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BEEN REVIEWING ALTERNATIVES. OUR HOPE IS THAT GOS COMMISSION WILL
GET US OFF THE HOOK BY TAKING THIS RESPONSIBILITY ONTO SWEDISH
SHOULDERS AND LIFTING IT FROM OURS; BUT DESPITE PROMISES WE DO
NOT KNOW WHEN REVISION OF PRESENT SYSTEM WILL ACTUALLY BE
UNDERTAKEN.

3. CONSIDERING ADVERSE PUBLICITY DIRECTED FOR MOMENT AT AMEMBASSY,

POST URGENTLY REQUESTS DETAILED INFORMATION REGARDING TAX PROVISIONS IN US FOR VISITING FOREIGN PERFORMERS. SUGGEST SPECIFICATIONS SUCH AS TAX PERCENTAGES LEVIED ON ARTISTS OR GROUPS, PERIOD OF TIME OR AMOUNT OF INCOME PERMITTED WITHOUT IMPOSITION OF TAX, ANY SIMILAR SUBSTANTIVE PROVISIONS IN TAX LAW PERTINENT TO SITUATION.

WOLCOTT

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Message Attributes

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